

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Lester W. Kauffman, III, as Trustee	:	CASE NO.
of the Union Trowel Trades Benefit	:	
Funds of Central Pennsylvania; and	:	
Thomas Smith, as Trustee of the	:	<i>Electronically Filed</i>
Bricklayers & Stonemasons Local 5	:	
Annuity Fund,	:	
Plaintiffs	:	
v.	:	
Aria Flooring	:	
296 Wyoming Avenue	:	
Wyoming, PA 18644-1680	:	
Defendant	:	

**COMPLAINT**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action under 29 U.S.C. §§1132 and 1145, 29 U.S.C. §185(a), and/or 28 U.S.C. §1331. The claims asserted herein are all made under federal statutes or federal common law, but the supplemental jurisdiction of the Court under 28 U.S.C. §1367(a) also extends to any claims that are found to lie under state law.

2. Venue lies in this District under 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(2), 29 U.S.C. §185(a) and/or 28 U.S.C. §1391(b).

3. Plaintiff, Union Trowel Trades Benefit Funds of Central Pennsylvania (hereinafter the “Health and Welfare Fund”) is a trust fund established under 29 U.S.C. §186(c)(5). Its Trustees are the “named fiduciary,” “plan administrator”

and “plan sponsor,” and each is an individual “fiduciary” within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§1102(a) and 1002(16) and (21).

4. The Health and Welfare Fund is a “multiemployer plan,” “employee benefit plan” and “employee welfare benefit plan” within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §1002(37), (1) and (3), which is administered and has its principal place of business in this District at % BeneSys, Inc., P.O. Box 97, Troy, MI 48099-0097.

5. Plaintiff, Lester W. Kauffman, III, is a fiduciary of the Health and Welfare Fund within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §1002(21) with respect to the collection of contributions due the Fund and related matters, has a business address at the addresses for the Funds listed herein, and is authorized to bring this action on behalf of all Trustees of the Funds as organizations.

6. Plaintiff, Bricklayers & Stonemasons Local 5 Annuity Fund (hereinafter the “Local 5 Annuity Fund”) is a trust fund established under 29 U.S.C. §186(c)(5). Its Trustees are the “named fiduciary,” “plan administrator” and “plan sponsor,” and each is an individual “fiduciary” within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§1102(a) and 1002(16) and (21).

7. The Local 5 Annuity Fund is a “multiemployer plan,” “employee benefit plan” and “employee benefit pension plan” within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §1002(37), (2) and (3).

8. Plaintiff, Thomas Smith, is a fiduciary of the Local 5 Annuity Fund within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §1002(21) with respect to the collection of contributions due the Fund and related matters, and is authorized to bring this action on behalf of all Trustees of the Funds as organizations.

9. The Health and Welfare Fund and Local 5 Annuity Fund are hereinafter jointly or severally referred to as “the Funds” or “ERISA Funds.”

10. Defendant, Aria Flooring (hereinafter “the Company”), is an employer in an industry affecting commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §152(2), (6) and (7) and 1002(5), (11) and (12), with a business office at the address listed in the caption. The Company does business with the Funds that is sufficient to create personal jurisdiction over the Company in this District and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims herein occurred from transactions with the Funds’ office in this District.

11. At all times relevant to this action, the Company was party to or agreed to abide by the terms and conditions of a collective bargaining agreement (hereinafter the “Agreement”) between International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local Union No. 5, Pennsylvania and the Tile & Marble Contractors Association of Lehigh Valley, Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

12. The Company is subject to and has agreed to abide by the terms of the Amended and Restated Agreements and Declarations of Trust of the Funds (singly or jointly referred to herein as the “Trust Agreements”), made between certain employers and employee representatives in an industry(ies) affecting interstate commerce to promote stable and peaceful labor relations, and the plan documents for the ERISA Funds.

13. Under the Agreement, Trust Agreements, plan documents of the ERISA Funds and/or other documents, the Company agreed:

a. To make full and timely payment on a monthly basis, on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month, to the Funds as required by the Trust Agreements and plan documents;

b. To file monthly remittance reports with the Funds detailing all employees or work for which contributions were required under the Agreement;

c. To pay interest at the rate of One and One-half (1.5%) Percent of the delinquent amount due the Health and Welfare Fund and Local 5 Annuity Fund;

d. To pay liquidated damages in the amount of Twenty (\$20.00) Dollars or Five (5%) Percent of the delinquent amount per month, whichever is greater, due the Health and Welfare Fund and Local 5 Annuity Fund; and

e. To pay all costs of litigation, including attorneys' fees, expended by the Funds to collect any amounts due as a consequence of the Company's failure to comply with its contractual and statutory obligations described above.

#### **COUNT I – CONTRIBUTIONS DUE UNDER ERISA**

Lester W. Kauffman, III, as Trustee of the Union Trowel Trades Benefit Funds of Central Pennsylvania, and Thomas Smith, as Trustee of the Bricklayers & Stonemasons Local 5 Annuity Fund  
v. Aria Flooring

14. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 13 above are incorporated by reference as if fully restated.

15. Based on information currently available to the ERISA Funds, the Company has failed to timely pay amounts due under the Agreement, Trust Agreements and plan documents for the period of December, 2016 through July, 2017, in violation of 29 U.S.C. §1145.

16. Pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement, Trust Agreements and plan documents, liquidated damages and interest in the amount of \$3,749.04 are

due from the Company on account of the delinquent contributions for the months of December, 2016 through July, 2017.

17. The ERISA Funds are adversely affected and damaged by the Company's violation of 29 U.S.C. §1145.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against the Company as follows:

- a. For any additional contributions due since the filing of this action;
- b. For liquidated damages and interest due in the amount of \$3,749.04 on account of the untimely payment of contributions for the months of December, 2016 through July, 2017, plus any additional liquidated damages and interest due since the filing of this suit;
- c. For costs incurred in this action or the collection or enforcement of any judgment as provided under the Trust Agreements, plan documents of the ERISA funds and 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2), including filing fees in the amount of \$400.00, and service fees in the amount of \$137.50; and
- d. For reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action; and
- e. For such other legal or equitable relief as the Court deems appropriate.

**COUNT II – CONTRIBUTIONS AND WAGES DUE UNDER  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS**

Lester W. Kauffman, III, as Trustee of the Union Trowel Trades  
Benefit Funds of Central Pennsylvania, and Thomas Smith, as Trustee  
of the Bricklayers & Stonemasons Local 5 Annuity Fund  
v. Aria Flooring

18. The allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 17 above are incorporated by reference as if fully restated.

19. The Company has not paid the Funds as required by the Agreement and other documents incorporated by the Agreement, such as the Trust Agreements or plan documents of the ERISA Funds.

20. Based on information currently available to the ERISA Funds, the Company has failed to timely pay amounts due under the Agreement, Trust Agreements and plan documents for the period of December, 2016 through July, 2017.

21. Pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement, Trust Agreements and plan documents, liquidated damages and interest in the amount of \$3,749.04 are due from the Company on account of the delinquent contributions for the months of December, 2016 through July, 2017.

22. Plaintiffs have been damaged by the Company as a proximate result of the Company's breach of the Agreement and/or its incorporated documents.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against the Company as follows:

- a. For any additional contributions due since the filing of this action;
- b. For liquidated damages and interest due in the amount of \$3,749.04 on account of the untimely payment of contributions for the months of December, 2016 through July, 2017, plus any additional liquidated damages and interest due since the filing of this suit;
- c. For costs incurred in this action or the collection or enforcement of any judgment as provided under the Agreement and Trust Agreements, including filing fees in the amount of \$400.00, and service fees in the amount of \$137.50;
- d. For reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action; and



e. For such other legal or equitable relief as the Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: October 26, 2017